



Public Service Commission
of South Carolina
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PSCnews

Public Service Commission of South Carolina

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PSC Holds Night Hearings

The Public Service Commission has been very busy this calendar year conducting hearings in communities where rate cases have been filed by jurisdictional utilities. Typically, after any rate case application is filed, the Commission schedules a hearing in Columbia. At this hearing, testimony is presented from the company, the Office of Regulatory Staff, and any intervenors who have prefiled testimony in the case.

During the months of February, March, April and May 2010, the Commission conducted several public night hearings from the Upstate to the



Tega Cay Water Service, Inc. Hearing

Lowcountry to allow the public to testify and comment on the rate requests. Testimony from the public witnesses became part of the official record of the case. Night hearings were conducted in the following three rate case dockets: United Utility Companies, Inc. - Docket 2009-479-WS;

2010 PSC Night Hearing Data				
Date	Applicant	Location	Attendees	Witnesses
February 23	United Utility	Simpsonville	43	11
February 25	United Utility	Piedmont	73	17
March 8	United Utility	Anderson	10	3
March 15	United Utility	Gaffney	13	7
March 23 *	United Utility	Columbia	7	5
April 26	SCE&G	Summerville	173	39
April 27	SCE&G	Charleston	167	36
May 6	SCE&G	Aiken	60	23
May 19	Tega Cay	Tega Cay	210	19
May 24	SCE&G	Columbia	73	30
May 24 *	SCE&G	Columbia	4	1

* Public witnesses testifying at the merits hearing in Columbia.



SCE&G Charleston Hearing

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company - Docket 2009-489-E; and Tega Cay Water Service, Inc. - Docket 2009-473-WS. For more information, visit the Commission's Docket Management System at www.psc.sc.gov.

From the Chair...*Lib Fleming*



As the time approaches for me to pass the gavel to our newly elected chairman, Butch Howard, I reflect on the past two years with great pride. I am proud of our exceptional staff, conscientious commissioners, and the significant work that we have accomplished on behalf of the state of South Carolina.

One of the most significant cases to come before the Commission was South Carolina Electric & Gas's application to build two nuclear reactors at its V.C. Summer site in Jenkinsville, South Carolina. This case was the first combined application for new nuclear generation filed under the Base Load Review Act of 2005. The Commission ultimately approved the application, and its ruling has been upheld by the Supreme Court of South Carolina. (A second appeal is pending.)

Our state has made advances in the area of energy efficiency. The Commission approved energy efficiency programs for Duke Energy, Progress

Energy, SCE&G, and Piedmont Natural Gas. In partnership with the Office of Regulatory Staff and the Public Utilities Review Committee, we also applied for, and received, a major grant from the United States Department of Energy which provided funds for staff and training in energy efficiency related activities.

South Carolina continues to have a strong presence within national and regional organizations. We hosted the annual SEARUC conference last year in Charleston, and it was a tremendous success. Several of our commissioners serve in leadership positions for NARUC. We hold four chairmanships and three Board of Director seats in the organization, giving South Carolina a strong voice in the national debate on utility issues.

Most important to me, is that over these past two years, the Commission has continued to make fair, open, and effective regulation of the state's public utilities its top priority. I thank our excellent staff and my fellow commissioners for their support, expertise, leadership, and collegiality. This outstanding group of professionals ensures our good work will continue.

Commissioner Elections - *Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Commissioners David A. Wright and Elizabeth "Lib" Fleming on their re-election to the Public Service Commission. Commissioner Wright will continue to serve the 2nd District and Chairman Fleming will represent the 4th District.

In addition, the 6th Congressional District seat left vacant with the appointment of Mignon Clyburn to the FCC was filled by Richland County Magistrate Nikiya "Nikki" Hall. A resident of Columbia, Commissioner Hall attended Spelman College in Atlanta and Georgetown University Law Center where she received her Juris Doctor. She has been an assistant solicitor with Richland County and, for the past three years, has worked in the county as a magistrate judge. Her experience as a judge will lend itself to the quasi-judicial nature of the Commission. Commissioner Hall was sworn in June 16, 2010, with the Honorable Mark Hammond, Secretary of State, administering the oath.

These commissioners were elected by the General



Newly Elected Commissioner Nikki Hall, 6th District, with Secretary of State Mark Hammond

Assembly May 19, 2010, and will serve four year terms.

Electricity Law Seminar

The Public Service Commission, along with the Office of Regulatory Staff and the Public Utilities Review Committee, recently sponsored a seminar on electricity law. The seminar featured nationally recognized speakers from the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRRI). The seminar was held at the Saluda Shoals Conference Center in Columbia, March 17-19, 2010.

Scott Hempling, Esquire, Executive Director of NRRRI opened the seminar with a day long session on the fundamentals of electricity law and regulation. On the second day of the seminar, Mr. Hempling presented material on renewable energy, covering topics from regulation to renewable portfolio stan-



Scott Hempling (l) and Fred Weston (r)

dards. The afternoon session of the second day featured Frederick Weston of the Vermont based Regulatory Assistance Project. Mr. Weston gave an informative presentation on energy efficiency, focusing on implementation of energy efficiency programs, and compensation to utilities for such programs. The agenda for the final day dealt with the topic of smart grid technology. Mr. Michael Jung, Policy Director with Silver Spring Network, Inc. was the presenter.



Michael Jung of Silver Spring Network, Inc.

With nearly one hundred registered attendees from the regulatory and legal community, as well as representatives from the electric utility industry, this seminar was a success. A follow-up seminar is in the planning stages.

Energy Efficiency Update

Piedmont Natural Gas Company is implementing energy efficiency programs designed to provide energy efficiency measures and weatherization assistance to low income residential customers, provide rebates for high efficiency natural gas appliance purchases, and provide community education through its Customer Education Program. It is estimated that \$1500-\$3500 will be spent on each participant in the Residential Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program to make homes more energy efficient and reduce the costs associated with heating and cooling.

It is Piedmont's goal that the programs be cost-effective and encourage customers to take actions that will influence how efficiently they use natural gas.



Ethics Training at the PSC

This past May, the Commission participated in ethics training for its members and staff. Adam Fisher, a Greenville attorney and former municipal judge, and Cathy Hazelwood of the SC Ethics Commission were the presenters.

Mr. Fisher instructed the Commission on ethics as it relates to due process of the law and the South Carolina evidence rules. Cathy Hazelwood, General Counsel to the State Ethics Commission, focused her portion of the seminar on the Commission's adherence to the Ethics Reform Act of 1991.



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